

**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of:

**Teiji EKIDA et al**

Conf. No.: **Unassigned**

Appln. No.: **Continuation  
of 09/743,239**

Group Art Unit: **1646**

Filed: **March 23, 2004**

Examiner: **Mertz, P.**

For: **IL-6 RECEPTOR • IL-6 DIRECT FUSION PROTEIN**

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

**MAIL STOP NON-FEE AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows on the accompanying pages.

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